

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04377

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AGENDA FOR 3 MAY 78,
ITEM III, EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND NADGE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN - REVISION OF FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS

REF: NATO DOCUMENT C-M(78)20, 10 MAR 78
SUMMARY. THE MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE (MBC) REPORTS
BACK TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (REFERENCE) ON ITS
FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF HARMONIZING EARLY WARNING
AND NADGE BUDGET CHAPTERS. THE COUNCIL IS ASKED TO DECIDE
ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY AND TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF
ANY SUCH STUDY. REQUEST GUIDANCE BY COB 2 MAY 78.
END SUMMARY.

1. BY REFERENCE THE MBC REQUESTS THE COUNCIL TO (1)
NOTE THAT IT COULD NOT FULFILL ITS MANDATE, (2) DECIDE
WHETHER FURTHER STUDY WAS REQUIRED, AND (3) DEFINE THE
SCOPE OF ANY SUCH FURTHER STUDY.

2. YEAR-LONG DISCUSSIONS IN THE MBC HAVE FAILED TO COME
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TO GRIPS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF HARMONIZING FINANCIAL
PROCEDURES OF EARLY WARNING AND NADGE BUDGET CHAPTERS
BECAUSE OF OPPOSING BELGIAN AND TURKISH POSITIONS.
TURKS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THEIR POSITION, ENUNCIATED BY
THEIR AMBASSADOR DURING COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF PO/77/12,
LIMITED STUDY TO FINANCIAL ASPECTS EXCLUSIVE OF ALL CON-
SIDERATION OF TECHNICAL OR OPERATIONAL ASPECTS. BELGIANS,

ON THE OTHER HAND, WANTED ANY STUDY TO COVER ALL ASPECTS IN ORDER TO FORM BASIS FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO BLEND THE EARLY WARNING AND NADGE SYSTEMS (FREQUENTLY BOTH ON THE SAME SITES) INTO A SINGLE RATIONAL BUDGET CHAPTER.

3. THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD SUPPORT THE BELGIAN POSITION, EXCEPT THAT THE BELGIAN INTENT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO DECREASE NATO SUPPORT OF TURKISH STATIONS OR TO OBTAIN SIMILAR SUPPORT FOR BELGIUM. THE TURKS, OF COURSE, FEAR ANY CHANGES WILL BE AT EXPENSE OF TURKEY.

4. RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO SIMPLIFY CURRENT BUDGET PROCEDURES, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASSURE THE TURKS THAT THE EXCEPTIONAL NATO AID OF 80 PCT OF THE OPERATIONAL COST OF THEIR SITES WILL BE MAINTAINED. WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT UNLESS THE CEILING ON SUCH NADGE COSTS IS REMOVED OR RAISED THEY WILL SOON BE RECEIVING LESS THAN 80 PCT OF THEIR COSTS. THE TURKISH REP (PEHLIVANOGLU) HAS, HOWEVER, STUCK TO THE ORIGINAL POSITION.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT, WHEREAS THERE IS A NEED TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, THERE IS NO INTENT TO ERODE THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF PROVIDING EQUITABLE NATO HELP WHERE REQUIRED.

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6. REQUEST GUIDANCE BY COB 2 MAY 78. BENNETT

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